

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the family is the cornerstone of our communities, state and nation and children are the future of society; and

WHEREAS, the care, protection and nurturing of children has traditionally been the responsibility of biological parents with support from the community; and

WHEREAS, kin are stepping forward in ever-increasing numbers to assume full, daily parental responsibilities for children whose parents are unable or unwilling to appropriately parent their children; and

WHEREAS, these kin face day-to-day living challenges as well as emotional, financial and legal obstacles, often alone and without support; and

WHEREAS, their commitment to these children is to provide a healthy, safe and happy childhood; and

WHEREAS, the number of children being cared for by kin is increasing daily and the length of time they remain with kin has gone from months to years; and

WHEREAS, the significance of the care and nurturing of these children by their kin deserves to be recognized;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gary Locke, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 21, 2003, as

Kinship Caregiver Day

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.



Signed this 28th day of February, 2003

Gary Locke
Governor Gary Locke